



WMEL Alumni & Friends Newsletter

Tom Maloney, Editor
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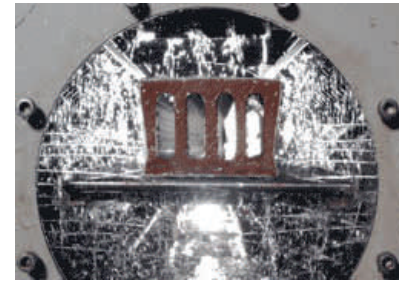
Comments from the Editor

My thanks to all of the alumni and retired faculty and staff for responding to our mailing of last summer. We have had great success in locating almost all of you but we still have not found some of our alumni. Later on we will list "the missing" and ask for help in locating these lost souls. See page six for a list of those whose address we are missing. Please contact Judy Edmister at edmister@wsu.edu if you can provide information.

I am going to divide the people of the Laboratory into two groups: The First Era-1949-1996 and the Second Era-1996 to the present. I am well known to the first era people as the Director and Don Bender is the Director of the Second Era. I'll try to separate the highlights of the activities of these two groups simply because of the interpersonal relationships that naturally developed in these two groups. We are interested in everyone, however.

Note: we received a tremendous response to our request for personal information. Most of the information received is presented later in this Newsletter. If I have made in errors in this presentation let me know so I can correct it in the future. For all of you who did not provide us with information, please do as your friends and colleagues are very interested in your adventures. This first Newsletter will include the present Mission Statement, recent recognitions, and some of the personal information on our alumni and retired staff. In the future, the plan is to highlight one or more of the ongoing projects, and to highlight major accomplishments of our alumni.

I am going to refer the reader to the excellent webpage of the Laboratory for all of the everyday information on the Laboratory (www.wmel.wsu.edu). This introduces the staff of the Laboratory at the present time and lists the present ongoing programs and projects. It is too bad that we did not have this excellent publicity tool over the years when I was active. This is a powerful means of promoting the Laboratory and keeping everyone up-to-date on the many activities of the Laboratory.



WMEL Recognition

This past year has seen a quite a number of recognitions for individuals associated with the Laboratory both past and present. Following is a listing of most of these awards (please refer to the Laboratory website for more details).

I feel it is important to note that none of these awards were possible without the full support of everyone in the Laboratory. While the lead people are noted in the following, the recognition is for everyone associated with these efforts. The Laboratory has long been noted for the great team work of everyone involved.

Thomas M. Maloney was awarded the first ever WSU Emeritus Society Excellence Award in the Spring of 2007, nearly a quarter century after receiving the first Sahlin Faculty Excellence Award for Public Service.

Roy Pellerin was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award honoring a lifetime of achievements in wood engineering. The award was presented at the Forest Products Societies 61st International Convention in Knoxville, Tennessee.



Tom Maloney



Dan Dolan



Pizhong Qiao

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WMEL Recognition, cont'd

Jinwu Wang was awarded Second Place in the 2007 Forest Products Society Wood Award competition for his paper "Kinetic Analysis and Modeling of Mechanical and Chemical Cure Development for Wood-PF Bonds." This award, sponsored by Dynea, was presented at the Forest Products Society's 61st International Convention in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Thomas M. Maloney, Emeritus Director of the Wood Materials and Engineering Laboratory, was given the Nondestructive Testing of Wood Outstanding Research and Development Award for leadership in this important developing field in the Forest Products industry. The plaque reads: 15th International Nondestructive Testing of Wood Symposium Distinguished Service Award; Thomas M. Maloney; Washington State University, September 10, 2007, Duluth, MN.

Thomas M. Maloney, Emeritus Director of the Wood Materials and Engineering Laboratory, received the third annual Bronson J. Lewis Award at the 70th annual meeting of the APA, November 10-12, 2007, Indian Wells, CA. This award is given by the APA to recognize individuals for their leadership and outstanding contribution to the engineered wood products industry. Tom was a chief contributor to development of the process for orient-

ing wood strands, which led to the transition from waferboard to OSB. He is a leading expert on non-destructive test methods for evaluating the strength of wood. He founded and for most of its history was in charge of one of the world's most prestigious and longest running annual gatherings of wood composite producers, suppliers and research experts—the International Wood Composites Symposium.

I commented on this award as follows, "This award recognizes the Laboratory for its work in reinventing the entire engineered wood industry from the days of plywood and laminated beams only. Nowadays, almost every single-family house or low-rise multiple unit building has one of the new engineered wood products as part of the construction. In other words, the Laboratory was in the forefront of a massive restructuring of the forest products industry worldwide."

Pizhong Qiao, Associate Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, has received the Outstanding Technical Contribution award from the Aerospace Division of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).

J. Daniel Dolan, Professor of Structural Engineering in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and Director of Codes and Standards for the Wood Materials & Engineering Laboratory, earned the Sahlin Faculty Excellence Award for Public Service for leading WSU's efforts to improve building codes and design standards to make low-rise buildings safer to the public. He helped write the U.S. residential building code and has been one of nine voting members of the technical update committee for this code since 2000. This code sets the performance standards for all single-family houses, duplexes, and townhouses in the United States. The extensive scope and excellence of his program is enhanced by his active work with Engineers Without Borders, where he advised student teams as they designed replacements for two school buildings destroyed by the tsunami in Sri Lanka, a water supply system in a remote area of the Yakama Nation, and a hospital building in Sudan.

News of Previous Staff

Arna T. Zook was our top secretary (previous classification) many years ago. She was excellent and remains a good friend of us old-timers. She and her husband, Charles (a WSU engineering graduate) live in the Seattle area. Arna is now retired from management at Cotelligent (a high-tech firm). She is still working part time and says she is very happy particularly when spending time with her grand children.

Carl W. Hall was our Engineering Dean leaving over 25 years ago to become Deputy Assistant Director of the National Science Foundation. He retired from NSF in 1990 but consulted for several years, mainly for the World Bank. He has been an inveterate writer publishing 30 books. His latest published by Purdue University Press is [Biographical Dictionary of People in Engineering Literature](#). Dr. Hall was a great friend of the Laboratory and supported all of our efforts. He recognized the good people we had that were doing excellent work. He helped the editor many times while Dean and even after he left WSU. He was good at keeping in bounds and going in the right direction with our work.

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Arthur F. Noskowiak joined us back in the 1950s working in the massive project establishing modern day properties of Douglas fir. This work covered the entire western U.S. where Douglas Fir grew. He also taught wood technology and forest products manufacturing courses in the Department of Forestry and Range Management. In his later years at WSU, his faculty appointment was entirely in this department but he gave freely of his time helping us out on numerous projects. He has retired in Spokane and reports he is in good health, taking part in Elderhostel education trips (latest one to Germany). He has always been an avid skier and is still skiing in retirement. I know he has loved to go skiing in many of the famous ski resorts in Europe.

Jeanette Talbott is the widow of our great colleague and resident genius, John Talbott. She still lives in her home in Moscow, Idaho (many of our older staff and alumni know this home well having been hosted by the Talbotts. Jeanette says she and her home are growing old together (knowing Jeanette they are doing so gracefully). Most of her off-spring live nearby except for the son and wife in Alaska. Like so many of us older folk, she is watching great grand children grow up. For those who don't know, Jeanette lost her son David awhile back.

Robert J. Hoyle, Jr. Bob says he is just coasting along now and wants to hear from any of his old colleagues and students. He is not doing any work now. His wife Rosemary has been ill and is now in a nursing home.

R. V. Subramanian is getting along with a quiet and peaceful retirement. He keeps fighting off the health problems he has had for awhile walking about two miles every day. He spends part of the year (the warm part) in Pullman and the rest of the year in Palo Alto, California. I see him and his wife at times when walking during his time in Pullman. To me, he looks pretty good.

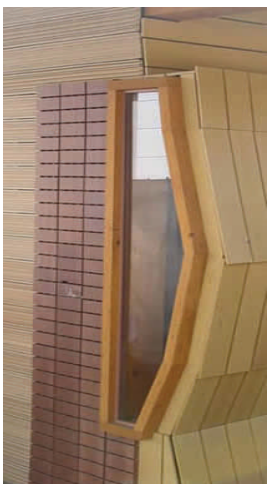
Marty Lentz and wife Barbara have been traveling extensively to places like Mexico, Central and South America. I hardly ever see them because of their travels. They also host campgrounds at Field Springs and Palouse Falls State Parks. Marty says, "I enjoy being unemployed."

Nils A. (Tony) Nilson says, "Retirement, what retirement." Tony is still very active with the Boy Scouts doing activities such as building stuff at Camp Grizzly, wood badge activities, and adult leadership training. He is busy with home projects, his never ending garage projects, volunteer community activities, and many travels keeping up with his and Phyllis's ever growing family. They still make their annual trip to Mexico. Phyllis gave Tony a "to do list" when he retired. He says he is sure he will find it someday.

Lucille (Sam) Leonhardy has retired in Moscow and is enjoying retirement. She does miss seeing her old friends. If my memory serves me right, Sam and her friend have a big motor home (or at least they did have one) and have traveled a bit. I'm sure all of her old friends can visualize Sam powering down the highway in a monster motor home.

Dave Dostal joined the WMEL technical staff after going back to school for an engineering degree. His excellent work in the wood plastic composites research led to an R&D position with a WPC technology firm in Madison Wisconsin. We were sorry to see him leave but happy for him in his new position.

Anke Schirp finished her post-doctoral work at the Laboratory recently and took a position at the Wilhelm-Klauditz-Institut Holzforschung in Braunschweig, Germany. We old timers had many friends at the Institute but they are also now retired. Anke is working on the Technology of Wood-based Panels doing research on projects such as development of an extra-light particleboard using foamed adhesives and durability improvement.



News of Alumni through 1996

Joe Fyie, 1977. Joe has had a long career with TrusJoist (now part of Weyerhaeuser) with assignments in California, Boise, Idaho, and Oregon. Joe and wife Leslie were relocated to Boise for the third time in 2006. I have to mention that we were able to place Joe for a year's work in New Zealand right after he graduated. The only negative was that he stole Leslie away from our staff and married her. But all is forgiven. Time flies; their two sons are now 25 and 28 years old. His professional role now concentrates on R & D Technology in strand and veneer manufacturing and products. His groups also support some international operations.

Roy Adams, 1981. It is my understanding that after a long and successful career, Roy is retired (perhaps only semi-retired) with wife Fiona in State College, Pennsylvania. Their family is a bit scattered around giving them reason for traveling. I know that they have traveled many times back to Scotland to visit family.

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Jonathan W. Martin, 1979. Dr. Jon Martin reports that his career at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has been very successful. In June of 2007, he assumed the role of Chief of the Materials and Construction Research Division. The Division has been comprised of four groups. The Structures Group is finishing up the "official" World Trade Center (WTC) investigation (WTC 7 was the last building in the WTC complex to collapse). Determining why it collapsed has proved to be very challenging. The Inorganic Group is well on its way in finding how to double the service life of concrete. The Polymers Group is investigating the contribution that individual nanomaterials make to the service life of polymeric composite materials, while the Construction Measurement and Automatic Group is measuring the position of construction materials within a construction site to within a millimeter of accuracy. In all, it is fun to be around smart people. Jon goes on to say that his family is doing well. All three of his and wife Janet's children are healthy and have successful careers. Janet and Jon are just growing older. Overall, however, Jon says it has been a wonderful ride so far and he owes a lot to WSU for any success that he has had. Jon sat with me when he graduated with his PhD and wondered what he could possibly be researching in the future. He has gone far beyond what we discussed that day. Congratulations are due Jon.

R. Sam Williams, 1980. Dr. Williams is Project Leader of the Performance Enhanced Biopolymers research work unit at the U.S. Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin. He oversees a broad basic research program in surface chemistry that encompasses defining surface properties, chemical modification of surfaces and bulk, protection of lignocellulosic materials, development of adhesives, and basic science of wood adhesion. In his personal research, he is developing sophisticated protocols for understanding the chemistry of materials as they degrade during accelerated and outdoor testing and is investigating the effects of cyclic fatigue, UV radiation, and temperature and moisture changes on materials as they degrade. Sam did not tell us if he is still a marathon runner; however, we know he is an accomplished dancer.

Robert Ross, 1984. Dr. Ross is Project Leader, Engineering Properties and Structures at the U.S. Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin. Bob has been very active in carrying on in the field of Nondestructive Testing of wood products that highlighted his graduate work at WMEL. Our graduate, Brian Brashaw, at the University of Minnesota, Duluth has worked with Bob on numerous projects. The two of them were the co-chairpersons of the last NDT Symposium held last fall in Duluth. So far, we are keeping this Symposium in the family. Nancy Ross, Bob's wife, an alum of Chemical Engineering is also at the Forest Products Laboratory and is very successful in her work.

Richard Rammon, 1985. Dr. Rammon has worked for the past 22 years for Georgia-Pacific Corporation in R & D for wood adhesives. He is currently the R & D Program Manager overseeing all of the new product development for the Wood Adhesives business. Rick says that he and wife Sue are enjoying themselves living in the suburbs of Atlanta. Their two children, Anna and Michael, are in college and doing well.

Marie Helene (Petit) Vincent, 1986. Marie returned to France after completing her master's degree. She has worked in the Federal laboratory and wood production companies. I was able to visit her a number of years ago while she was in industry and was able to visit with her parents. Marie is married with children and is now working as a Manager in a small company that designs and makes workshop fittings.

William K. Motter, 1990. Dr. Motter works in the Formaldehyde and Forest Products Division for Hexion Specialty Chemicals (Borden Adhesives was folded into this company awhile back) located in Springfield, Oregon. Bill recently switched to R & D on phenolic plywood and LVL resins. He states that he loves his work, the people he works with and living in the southern Willamette Valley of Oregon.

Joung-Man Park, 1991. Dr. Park is Professor in the School of Nano and Advanced Materials Engineering, Gyeongsang National University, Chinju, Korea. His work is in the Composites Interface and NDE Laboratory. Dr. Park is also an Adjunct Professor at the University of Utah. He has been a Director of Advance Materials Center at The Engineering Research Institute at his university. Also, he is a member of The Advisory Board of the Elsevier Journal, Composites Part B: Engineering and Advanced Composite Materials. He has been very active in Korean and international professional societies.

John Wasniewski, 1991. John worked professionally in leading composite manufacturing companies after graduation and is now General Manager of Timber Products Company in Medford, Oregon.

Patrick Farrell, 1992. Pat now lives in Tualatin, Oregon and invites anyone in the area living or visiting to drop by and see the activities at his company WBG Technologies.

Brent Olson, 1996. After working at Borden and JELD-WEN, Brent has come home to the WMEL where he is an Associate in Research. He is also working on his PhD in his spare time. Wife Jen teaches in the Moscow school system. Brent is hunting, fishing, and skiing as much as possible.

News of Alumni After 1996

David Harper, 1998. David is presently an Assistant Professor at the Tennessee Forest Products Center at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, Tennessee.

Jeff Peters, 1999. Jeff is Engineer/Quality Control Director with a glued laminated timber manufacturer in Wisconsin. He is married with two young children.

Paul Rogness, 1999. Paul is Associate, DCI Engineers in Bellevue, Washington.

Jeff Linville, 2000. Jeff is the Director of Technical Services for the American Institute of Timber Construction located in Colorado.

Bill Parsons, 2001. Bill is working for iLevel by Weyerhaeuser in Boise, Idaho. He is part of the Strategic Services Group leading the software implementation team of NextPhase offering automated cutting of floor systems.

Chris Brandt, 2001. Chris is also with iLevel by Weyerhaeuser (formerly TrusJoist) in Boise, Idaho where he is Market Support Engineer.

Vikram Yadama, 2002. Dr. Yadama is now an Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist in the WMEL at Washington State University. Vik is co-chair of our International Wood Composites Symposium and Technical Workshop now in its 42nd year. He is doing research in the area of wood and wood-based composites.

Matt Leslie, 2004. Matt is with Structure Engineering in Union Gap, Washington. He says, "I am just living the dream, man, living the dream."

Sara C. (Schwab) Imbruglio, 2005. Sara is a Project Engineer with PCS Structural Solutions working primarily on wood-framed structures (high-end residential, K-12 schools, and other institutions). They are swamped with projects but the work is enjoyable. She married Jason Imbruglio (also a Cougar) in July 2006. They live in Tacoma.

Kristin Duchateau, 2005. Kristin is working as a structural engineer for Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She wishes all the best for the folks in the WMEL.

Ryan Kobbe, 2005. He is working as a Structural Engineer in the Applied Mechanics Department at the Idaho National Laboratory.

Sudip Chowdhury, 2006. Sudip is a PhD candidate at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia. In his present position he is working on wood rheology, wood adhesive interactions, and durability from the point of view of polymer science.

Ryan Musgrove, 2006. Ryan lives in Woodland, Washington working for Kramer, Gehlen & Associates, Inc. in Vancouver, Washington.

Erica Rude, 2007. Erica is a Materials Engineer at the Naval Air Warfare Center at China Lake, California. She is in the composites division to help support the Warfighter.

Jinwu Wang, 2007. Dr. Wang is with Weyerhaeuser doing R & D on lumber manufacturing and process improvements.

Elvie E. Brown, 2007. Elvie is a PhD candidate at WSU. She is performing research about making biomaterial with application in the biomedical field utilizing bacterial cellulose and other biocompatible polymers.

Yu Geng. Yu is a post-doctoral research associate in the Department of Fiber Science and Apparel Design at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. He worked as a post-doc at the WMEL until going to Cornell.



In Memoriam

One of the important but sad parts of newsletters such as this one, is to report on the passing of some of our family. Recently, Don Bender lost his father, Wilbert, and Mike Wolcott lost his father, George. All of us who have lost parents know how stomach wrenching are these losses.

Not all of you know that we lost our graduate and wife of Ernest Hsu, Julia, not long ago. Julia was a jewel and a great friend of all of us who knew her. Ernest has retired from Louisiana Pacific and moved to Vancouver, Washington. He is still very active professionally and in his community. I understand he is working on a book on oriented strand board (OSB).

For our older alumni and friends, Gil Anderson (one of our long time and excellent laboratory staff operators) passed away last year. His wife, Alma, died the year before. Many of our research projects were successful due to Gil's persistent diligence in doing the work right.

Dayton Brewer died a number of years ago. His wife, Betty, passed on this past year after a brief illness. She remained a friend of the laboratory throughout the years.

Also for our older alumni and friends, I have to report the passing of John Saunders a while back. John and wife Eve had retired to the Lincoln City, Oregon area where they enjoyed the Oregon seacoast. John lead us into the computer age in getting our operation fully tied into WSU's computer system. He did it with what has to be recognized as very out of date equipment. In those glory days we couldn't afford the best equipment available. John also did a lot of the dirty laboratory work that was key to many of our successes.

Do you know where these people are??

Zachary Davidson
Lee French
Shannon Emerick
Stephanie Hetrick
Danielle Imboden
Philip Johnson
Joseph Kaiserlik

Bryan Lindfors
Monique Paynter
Glenn Madden
Scott Peterson
Sudarshan Rangaraj
Frans/Judya Wospakrik



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